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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Juan Carlos Parodi et al.
Application No. : 09/991,417 Confirmation No. : 4044
Filed : November 16, 2001
For : APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR REDUCING
EMBOLIZATION DURING TREATMENT OF
CAROTID ARTERY DISEASE
Group Art Unit : 3763
Examiner : Kevin C. Sirmons

Hon. Director of Patents
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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MAY 13 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R0700

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Responsive to the Office action dated March 28, 2003, received in the above-identified application, applicants make the following election and remarks.

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-15 and 18-20 are pending in the application.

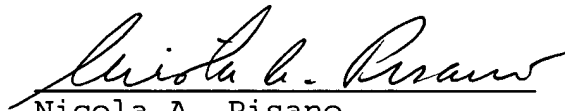
An election of species has been imposed between the following species: Species I (FIGS. 3A-3D), Species II (FIGS. 4A and 4B), Species III (FIGS. 6A and 6B) and Species IV (FIGS. 7A and 7B).

Applicants' Response

Applicants hereby elect Species I for initial examination in this application. Applicants identify claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10-15 and 19-20 as corresponding to elected Species I. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 12 are generic to species I and III, and that rejoining those remaining claims would not substantially increase the examination burden.

An early and favorable action is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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